

THE PERIODICAL CICADA IN NEW JERSEY IN 1953

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The following notes represent an effort to keep track of the localities in New Jersey where *Magicicada septendecim* (Linn.) and its form *cassinii* (Fisher) made their appearance during the spring of 1953. This emergence was part of Brood X, which extends over a large part of the northeastern fourth of the United States.

In central New Jersey, specifically in Lawrence Road, Lawrence Township, (Mercer County) a cicada was observed on May 11. On May 16, cicadas were seen near Milford, along the Delaware River in Hunterdon County, which is also in the central part of the state. At Princeton, (Mercer County) nymphs were still emerging from the ground from May 20 to June 4. By June 16, emergence was all over in the Princeton area. Adults were disappearing and oviposition injury was beginning to appear on the oaks. In the vicinity of Bloomsbury, (Hunterdon County) the males were still singing, and ovipositing, on June 29, but in most areas in central New Jersey the cicadas were well on the wane by that date.

Magicicada septendecim form *cassinii*, with its darker colored ventral abdominal surface and its clicking song, which occurs with *septendecim* was extremely abundant in Princeton and vicinity (Mercer County), in the Sourland Mountain (Hunterdon County), and along the road between Montgomery and Zion over the Sourland Mountain (Somerset County), where it occurred in very large colonies and where its song almost completely overwhelmed that of *septendecim*. *Cassinii* may have been as abundant elsewhere but the above areas were the only ones to come under my direct observation while the singing was going on.

The following cicada locality records for Mercer, Hunterdon, Somerset, and Warren counties are mostly the results of my own observations. I also covered Monmouth and Middlesex counties rather completely and found no signs of cicadas. The western

parts of Burlington and Camden counties were also devoid of cicada colonies. Locality records outside of these areas were supplied by interested observers.

Atlantic County. Near Buena.

Burlington County. For a mile and a half between Indian Mills and Tabernacle.

Gloucester County. Along U. S. Route 40, west of Malaga.

Hunterdon County. Vicinity of Milford. Sourland Mountain between Amwell and Wertsville. Vicinity of Rocktown. Vicinity of Croton. Along N. J. Route 12 between Baptistown and Croton and between Croton and Flemington. Clinton to Baptistown. Pittstown to Bloomsbury (Musconetcong Mtn.). In Musconetcong Mountain between West Portal, Pattenburg and Bloomsbury. Vicinity of Jutland. Pittstown to Milford. Around Pattenburg. Northwest of Little York. Vicinity of Mount Pleasant. Along road from Cherryville to Clinton Reformatory. A mile northwest of Sergeantsville. Near Stanton. Four miles east of Lambertville. Along Mt. Airy-Harbourton Road about one and one-half miles from Mt. Airy.

Mercer County. In wooded areas on both sides of U. S. Route 206 in Princeton Township. Along Harbourton-Woodsville Road. Between Pennington and Harbourton. In a few wooded areas near Ackors Corner and also north of Pennington. Along both sides of N. J. Route 27 for a mile southwest of Princeton and extending into Princeton to the vicinity of the Princeton Battle Monument. In Princeton along Mercer Road, Library Place, Elm Road, on the old Hun School grounds and vicinity in Princeton. In the vicinity of the new Hun School. A few individuals in Lawrence Township.

Ocean County. Vicinity of Lakewood and Toms River.

Salem County. In an area from Portertown west to the Salem-Woodstown highway, known as "Bushtown."

Somerset County. On both sides of the road over the Sourland Mountain between Montgomery and Zion.

Warren County. Colonies in the Stewartsville (Pohatcong Mtn.) and Riegelsville (Musconetcong Mtn.) areas. In the vicinity of Carpentersville (Musconetcong Mtn.) entire mountainside infested.

An attempt was made through correspondence to obtain infestation records from all counties in the state. No records were forthcoming from Essex, Bergen, Union, Passaic, Cape May, Morris, Camden and Sussex counties. Definite locality records are not readily obtainable unless one actually surveys the likely places in a county or unless the cicadas are numerous and of course noisy enough to force their attention upon people. In the absence of information one never knows usually whether the cicadas have been eliminated from an area or simply overlooked because of their distance from well-traveled roads. Although Brood X has, during its past five appearances since 1868, been recorded from nearly all counties of the state, its absence in 1953 from such counties as Essex, Bergen, Union, Passaic, Camden, Middlesex and parts of Monmouth and Morris is not unexpected because of the advance of "civilization" in such areas. For the most part humans and cicadas do not exist side by side, and in areas where the human population is high, the "seventeen-year locust" has vanished. There are of course some exceptions to this. For example in the Princeton Battle Monument area and over an extensive part of its surroundings Brood X of the periodical cicada has been doing very well every seventeen years since 1885 which is as far back as my records extend. And it also did very well previous to 1885. This has been due to the comparatively unchanged residential areas in that locality, which for many years have supported numerous fine old trees and patches of dense woods. I doubt if there is another residential area in New Jersey where, during a periodical cicada emergence, the sidewalks, trees, fences, and shrubbery would overflow with these amazing and interesting insects. For many years to come, the best areas in New Jersey for observing Brood X, will be found in Mercer and Hunterdon counties and in parts of Somerset and Warren counties, until land clearance and building operations eliminate them from the wooded areas.